CLAIMS

- 1. A method for treating or preventing an epithelial lesion in a mammal comprising administering a trefoil domain-containing polypeptide (TDCP) or a trefoil peptide fragment.
- 2. The method of claim 1, wherein said TDCP or said trefoil peptide fragment is selected from a group consisting of hITF₂₅₋₆₂, hITF₂₁₋₆₂, hITF₂₁₋₆₂, hITF₂₅₋₇₀, hITF₂₂₋₇₀, hITF₂₁₋₇₃, hITF₂₁₋₇₃, hITF₂₁₋₇₃, hITF₂₁₋₇₃, and EA-hITF₁₅₋₇₃.
 - 3. The method of claim 1, wherein said trefoil peptide fragment is ITF_{15-73} .
 - 4. The method of claim 1, wherein said TDCP comprises ITF₁₅₋₇₃.
- 5. The method of claim 1, wherein said TDCP or said trefoil peptide fragment comprises a trefoil domain having an amino acid sequence substantially identical to any one of SEQ ID NOs: 3-5.
- 6. The method of claim 1, wherein said TDCP or said trefoil peptide fragment comprises a trefoil domain having an amino acid sequence substantially identical to SEQ ID NO: 6.
- 7. The method of claim 1, wherein said TDCP or said trefoil peptide fragment is administered as a homodimer or heterodimer.
- 8. The method of claim 1, wherein said epithelial lesion is a lesion of the upper alimentary canal.

- 9. The method of claim 8, wherein said epithelial lesion is, aphthous stomatitis, mucositits, gingivitis, a lesion of the esophagus, a lesion caused by gastro-esophageal reflux disease, or a lesion caused by Behcet's disease.
- 10. The method of claim 1, wherein said epithelial lesion is a lesion of the dermis or epidermis.
- 11. The method of claim 10, wherein said lesion is a traumatic lesion, a burn, a pressure ulcer, eczema, contact dermatitis, psoriasis, a herpetic lesion, or acne.
- 12. The method of claim 10, wherein said skin lesion is caused by a bacterial, viral, or fungal infection.
- 13. The method of claim 1, wherein said epithelial lesion is a lesion of the vaginal, cervical, or uterine epithelium.
- 14. The method of claim 13, wherein said skin lesion is caused by a bacterial, viral, or fungal infection.
- 15. The method of claim 1, wherein said epithelial lesion is a lesion of the epithelium of the gastrointestinal tract.
- 16. The method of claim 1, wherein said epithelial lesion is a lesion of the distal bowel.
- 17. The method of claim 16, wherein said lesion is enteritis, proctitis, or caused by Crohn's disease or ulcerative colitis.

- 18. The method of claim 1, wherein said epithelial lesion is a lesion of the respiratory epithelium.
- 19. The method of claim 18, wherein said lesion is caused by an allergic reaction, asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, or the inhalation of smoke, particulate matter, or a chemical.
- 20. The method of claim 1, wherein said epithelial lesion is a lesion the corneal epithelium.
- 21. The method of claim 20, wherein said lesion is a superficial punctate keratitis, a corneal ulcer, keratoconjunctivitis caused by herpes or adenovirus, phlyctenular keratoconjunctivitis, a keratoconus, a conjunctiva, a keratoconjunctivitis sicca (dry eyes), an ocular inflammation, a cicatricial penhigoid, a bacterial or protozoal infection.
- 22. The method of claim 1, wherein said lesion is caused by antineoplastic chemotherapy or antineoplastic radiation therapy.
- 23. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a trefoil domain-containing polypeptide (TDCP) or trefoil peptide fragment and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.
- 24. The composition of claim 23, wherein said TDCP or said trefoil peptide fragment is selected from a group consisting of hITF₂₅₋₆₂, hITF₂₂₋₆₂, hITF₂₁₋₆₂, hITF₂₁₋₇₃, hITF₂₁₋₇₃, hITF₂₁₋₇₃, hITF₂₁₋₇₃, hITF₂₁₋₇₃, and EA-ITF₁₅₋₇₃.

- 25. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 23, wherein said trefoil peptide fragment is ITF_{15-73} .
- 26. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 23, wherein said TDCP comprises ITF₁₅₋₇₃.
- 27. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 23, wherein said TDCP or said trefoil peptide fragment comprises a trefoil domain having an amino acid sequence substantially identical to any one of SEQ ID NOs: 3-5.
- 28. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 23, wherein said TDCP or said trefoil peptide fragment comprises a trefoil domain having an amino acid sequence substantially identical to SEQ ID NO: 6.
- 29. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 23, wherein said TDCP or said trefoil peptide fragment is homodimeric or heterodimeric.
- 30. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 23, wherein said composition is suitable for intravenous, intramuscular, or subcutaneous injection.
- 31. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 23, wherein said composition is formulated as an oral rinse, oral spray, or ingestible liquid.
- 32. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 23, wherein said composition is formulated as a suppository, enema, pessary, or a vaginal rinse.
- 33. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 23, wherein said composition is formulated for inhalation.

- 34. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 23, wherein said composition is formulated for administration to the eye.
- 35. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 23, wherein said composition further comprises a second therapeutic agent.
- 36. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 35, wherein said second therapeutic agent is an analysic, an anti-viral agent, an antibacterial agent, an anti-fungal agent, an antiproliferative agent, an anti-inflammatory agent, or a steroid.
- 37. A method for producing hITF₂₁₋₇₂ or hITF₂₁₋₇₃ comprising providing a microorganism capable of expressing recombinant hITF₂₁₋₇₂ or recombinant hITF₂₁₋₇₃ and culturing said microorganism at about pH 5.0.
 - 38. The method of claim 37, wherein said microorganism is a yeast.
 - 39. The method of claim 38, wherein said yeast is *P. pastoris*.
- 40. A method for producing hITF₁₅₋₇₂ or hITF₁₅₋₇₃ comprising providing a microorganism capable of expressing recombinant hITF₁₅₋₇₂ or recombinant hITF₁₅₋₇₃ and culturing said microorganism at about pH 6.0 pH 6.5.
 - 41. The method of claim 40, wherein said microorganism is a yeast.
 - 42. The method of claim 41, wherein said yeast is P. pastoris.